## REMARKS

### Claim Rejections

Applicant thanks the Office for the attention accorded the present Application in the August 23, 2006, Office Action. Claims 1-11 and 13-20 are pending in this application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserve the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application.

In that Action, claims 1-11 and 13-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Packer (US 6,058,453).

### 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections based on Packer

The Office rejects claims 1-11 and 13-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Packer. Applicant traverses this rejection because Applicant submits that the Office has misinterpreted Packer or the present invention.

Step (c) in claim 1 of this invention is "according to the timing when said main data decoding procedure is triggered, deciding the timing when said decoded subcodes should be buffered to said buffer memory, in order that said subcodes and corresponding audio data which belong to the same block before decoding **can be buffered to the same buffer unit** after respectively decoded" (claim 1 of the present invention) (emphasis added).

FIG. 3 and its relative descriptions in the specification depict a detailed example of the aforementioned timings. In this example, the block 32c is the starting block where buffering starts. As recited in Applicant's specification, the main data buffer controller 110 starts triggering the main data decoding procedure from the block 32c. Correspondingly, the method of the present invention postpones the timing for the subcode buffering unit 108 to buffer the decoded subcode to the buffer memory 112, after receiving the matching flag, and to trigger

the later subcode decoding procedure. The timing is postponed to the block 32c. Through postponing the operations of the subcode buffering unit 108, the subcode and the main data buffered in the same buffer unit 114 are both from the block 32c.

In comparison, Packer does not teach the step (c) above as does claim 1.

In Packer, "a delayed block release operation is used to ensure that all of the components of a data frame and subcode frame are received in the buffer memory 518 before a release to the host 522 is allowed" (Col. 8, Lines 58-62) *(emphasis added)*. That is to say, Packer only ensures that the data frames and subcode frames are synchronized when released from the buffer memory 518. By contrast, according to the present invention, the data frames and subcode frames has been synchronized in the buffer memory, i.e. buffered to the same buffer unit.

As described in Packer, "when each subcode frame 204 (i.e., the 98 bytes of each sector) is passed into the buffer memory 518, the aforementioned DS counter 404 will be incremented by "1"" (Col. 7, Lines 18-20) *(emphasis added)*. Similarly, "when data frames 203 (i.e., the 2352 bytes of data) are transferred to the buffer memory 518 by the buffer manager 516, the DD counter 402 is incremented by "1"" (Col. 7, Lines 35-38) *(emphasis added)*.

FIG. 6A shows the operation mechanisms of the counters in Packer. As shown in rows 1 and 2 of FIG. 6A, "the counter status for DD is 1, DS is 3, and E is 1, the buffer manager 516 will allow data frame 203 and subcode frame 204 to be released" (Col. 9, Lines 60-63) *(emphasis added)*. It can be seen that, in Packer, the synchronization of a data frame and its corresponding subcode frame is ensured by counting the data frames and subcode frames received by the buffer memory 518. In contrast, according to the present invention, the synchronization of a data frame and its corresponding subcode frame is ensured by controlling the timings of when the frames are decoded and triggered.

Furthermore, in the above embodiment of Packer, the number of data frames received by the buffer memory 518 is 1; the number of subcode frames received by the buffer memory 518 is 3. Apparently, there is an offset between the data frames and subcode frames in the buffer memory 518. As described above, Packer only ensures that the data frames and subcode frames are synchronized when released from the buffer memory 518. On the contrary, according to the present invention,

the data frames and subcode frames has been synchronized in the buffer memory, i.e. buffered to the same buffer unit.

In view of the above, it is clear that step (c) in claim 1 of the present invention is not taught in Packer. Claim 1 of the present invention is also evidently different from the methods disclosed in Packer.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Packer does not anticipate the claim 1. Similarly, claim 11 also recites that "said address control unit decides the timing when said decoded subcodes should be buffered to said buffer memory, according to the timing when said main data decoding procedure is triggered". The arguments set forth in the above regarding to claim 1 also apply to claim 11. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1 and 11.

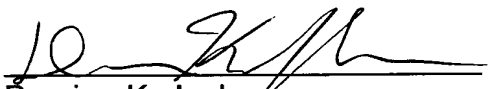
It is axiomatic in U.S. patent law that, in order for a reference to anticipate a claimed structure, it must clearly disclose each and every feature of the claimed structure. Applicant submits that it is abundantly clear, as discussed above, that Packer does not disclose each and every feature of Applicant's claims and, therefore, could not possibly anticipate these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Absent a specific showing of these features, Packer cannot be said to anticipate any of Applicant's claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Applicant submits that the dependent claims 2-10 and 13-20 not specifically addressed herein are allowable for the reasons discussed in pertinent portions associated with their independent claims 1 and 9, as well as for their own additional features. Accordingly, Applicant asserts that Packer does not anticipate claims 2-10 and 13-20. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections. Reconsideration of claims 1-11 and 13-20 is respectfully requested.

**Summary**

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 22, 2006 By: 

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